attaching a peripheral-type removable medium recording station to the medical system, the recording station having a first storage device capable of initially storing medical image data received from the medical system on a nonremovable storage medium and a second storage device capable of storing medical image data on a first removable storage medium;

receiving at the recording station, medical image data transmitted in a first format from the computer workstation;

storing the medical image data on the nonremovable storage medium;

converting the medical image data to a second format; and

storing the converted data on the first removable storage medium,

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wherein the first format and the nonremovable storage medium are compatible with the technologies implemented by the medical system, and at least one of the second format and the first removable storage medium reflects new storage technology.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the computer workstation is a digital imaging and communications in medicine compliant computer workstation.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the computer workstation has a magneto-optical drive.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the first removable storage medium is a compact disk.

20. The method of claim 16 wherein the first removable storage medium is a digital video disk.

21. The method of claim 16 wherein the removable medium recording station has a third storage device, capable of reading medical image data from a second removable storage medium and used in conjunction with the second storage device to copy image data from the

second removable medium to the first removable medium independently of the operation of the medical image system.

22. The method of claim 16 wherein the converting of the medical image data for the subsequent storage on the first removable medium occurs when the storing of the medical image data exceeds a capacity threshold of the nonremovable storage medium.

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23. The method of claim 16 wherein the converting of the medical image data for subsequent storage on the first removable medium occurs in response to a measure of the utility of the image data stored on the nonremovable medium.

24. The method of claim 16 further comprising:

removing the first removable medium from the removable medium recording station, and filing the first removable medium in a storage facility.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the removing and filing of the first removable medium is implemented using a removable medium juke box.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the filing of the first removable medium comprises the labeling of the first removable medium with the pertinent patient information.

27. The method of claim 16 further comprising:

storing specialized image viewing software on the first removable medium to enable viewing of the converted image data by non-compliant workstations.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the specialized image viewing software enables DICOM compliance.

29. A medical image processing network, comprising:

a communications network;

at least one medical scanner, coupled to said communications network, that scans a patient and creates medical image data;

a computer workstation, coupled to the communication network and operative to store initially and to analyze the medical image data generated by the medical scanner, the computer workstation utilizing at least one of standardized and proprietary storage technologies;

a server, coupled to the communications network, that stores medical image data received from the computer workstation in accordance with associated patient information; and,

a removable medium recording station, coupled to said communications network, the removable medium recording station having a first storage device capable of initially storing medical image data received from said medical scanner on a nonremovable storage medium and a second storage device capable of storing data on a first removable storage medium;

wherein the first storage device is compatible with the technologies implemented by the computer workstation and the second storage device utilizes at least one of new storage format and new storage medium technologies.

30. The network of claim 29 wherein the removable medium recording station has a third storage device, capable of reading medical image data from a second removable storage medium and used in conjunction with the second storage device to copy image data from the second removable medium to the first removable medium independently of the operations of the medical scanner and the computer workstation.

31. The medical image processing network of claim 29, wherein the computer workstation is a digital imaging and communications in medicine compliant computer workstation.

32. The medical image processing network of claim 29, wherein the computer workstation includes a magneto-optical drive.

33. The medical image processing network of claim 29, wherein the removable medium recording station includes a compact disk.

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34. The medical image processing network of claim 29, wherein the removable medium recording station includes a digital video disk.

35. A removable medium recording station, comprising:

a communications facility for coupling the removable medium recording station to a medical image system, the medical image system utilizing one of proprietary and standard storage technologies and having a medical scanner that scans a patient and creates medical image data, and a computer workstation coupled to the medical scanner and operative to store initially and to analyze the medical image data created by the scanner, the communications facility enabling the removable medium recording station to be coupled to the medical image system as a peripheral device;

a first storage device capable of initially storing medical image data received in a first format from the medical system on a nonremovable storage medium; and,

a second storage device capable of storing medical image data in a second format on a first removable storage medium;

wherein the first format and the nonremovable storage medium are compatible with the storage technology implemented by the medical system, and at least one of the second format and the first removable storage medium reflects new storage technology.

36. The removable medium recording station of claim 35 wherein the computer workstation is a digital imaging and communications in medicine compliant computer workstation.

37. The removable medium recording station of claim 35 wherein the computer workstation has a magneto-optical drive.

38. The removable medium recording station of claim 35 wherein the first removable storage medium is a compact disk drive.

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39. The removable medium recording station of claim 35 wherein the first removable storage medium is a digital video disk drive.

40. The removable medium recording station of claim 35 wherein the removable medium recording station has a third storage device, capable of reading medical image data from a second removable storage medium and used in conjunction with the second storage device to copy image data from the second removable medium to the first removable medium independently of the operation of the medical image system.

41. The removable medium recording station of claim 35 wherein the medical image data is stored on the first removable medium when the medical image data stored on the nonremovable storage medium exceeds a capacity threshold of the nonremovable storage medium.

42. The removable medium recording station of claim 35 wherein the medical image data is stored on the first removable medium in response to a measure of the utility of the image data stored on the nonremovable medium.